Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. With entry of the present amendment, claims 1, 2, 4, 35-41, 44, and 46-53 are pending in the application.

Cited Art

The Action cites:

Eid et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0190771 (hereinafter "Eid");

Denk et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0025292 (hereinafter "Denk");

Love et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,115,031 (hereinafter "Love")

Lundberg et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0183949 (hereinafter "Lundberg");

FOURCC.org - YUV Formats, http://www.fourcc.org/yuv.php, pages 1-15 (hereinafter "FOURCC.org"); and

Reitmeier et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0202589 (hereinafter "Reitmeier").

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Action rejects claims 1-2, 5, 35, 39-41, and 46-53 under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as unpatentable over Eid in view of Denk and further in view of Love. The Action rejects claim 4 under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as unpatentable over Eid, Denk, and Love in further in view of Lundberg. The Action rejects claims 38 and 44 under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as unpatentable over Eid, Denk, and Love in further in view of FOURCC.org. The Action rejects claims 36-37 under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as unpatentable over Eid, Denk, and Love in further in view of Reitmeier. Applicants traverse the rejections.

Applicants have amended the independent claims 1, 40 and 51 to address the recited technique of converting video data to a lower bit precision, which also makes use of a unique four-character format code with first character indicating a hybrid planar format, second character indicating a chroma sub-sampling, and third and fourth characters designating bit precision. As discussed in the Specification of the present application at page 5, lines 11-17, when the claimed technique of converting to a lower bit precision is used in combination with this unique four-character format code, the video data can be up converted again to a higher bit

precision simply by changing the bit precision indicated in the four-character format code.

Applicants note that similar language relating to this unique four-character format code is recited in the claims of issued U.S. Patent 7,548,245 (which is a divisional of the present application). For example, amended claim 1 herein recites the language:

> receiving digital video data in a hybrid planar format containing video
> data with chroma and luma information and a header with a four-character format
> code, the chroma and luma information for a pixel in the video image being in an
> n-bit representation, the n-bit representation comprising a 16-bit fixed-point block
> of data per channel for the pixel comprising a most significant byte comprising 8
> bits and a least significant byte comprising 8 bits, where the most significant byte
> in the 16-bit unit of data is an integer component comprising values each with a
> specific position relative to the 16-bit unit of data, and where the least significant
> byte in the 16-bit unit of data is a fractional component, wherein the four-
> character format code comprises:
>> a first character which indicates the format is:
>>> a hybrid planar format wherein luma information for each of plural
>>> pixels in a video image is stored in a first array of memory and wherein
>>> chroma information for each of the plural pixels in the video image is
>>> stored in a second array of memory;
>>> a second character based on chroma sampling in the format; and
>>> third and fourth characters based on a bit precision of the format;
>> converting the n-bit representation to a lower-precision (n-m)-bit
> representation by splitting the fractional component into a first portion comprising
> m least significant bits of the fractional component wherein m is less than 8, and
> further splitting the fractional component into a second portion comprising 8-m
> most significant bits of the fractional component, and assigning zero values to the
> first portion of the fractional component while the values and the specific
> positions of the values of the integer component and the second portion of the
> fractional component are unchanged;
>> modifying the third and fourth characters of the four-character format code
> to indicate the bit precision of the lower-precision (n-m)-bit representation; and
>> outputting a result of the converting. (Emphasis added)

Independent claims 40 and 51 recite similar limitations relating to the use of the four-character format code in combination with claimed bit precision conversion.

The cited art fails to teach or suggest bit precision conversion of digital video data in combination with the unique four-character format codes as recited in the amended claims. Apart from the FourCC.org reference, none of the cited references even mention video data format codes. The FourCC.org reference describes various conventional video format codes, but

does not teach or suggest format codes meeting the particular limitations recited in the amended claim language.

Moreover, claims reciting similar language defining this unique four character format code was considered patentable in the issued divisional application.

For at least these reasons, claim 1, 40 and 51 (along with their dependent claims 2, 4, 35-39, 41, 44, and 46-50, 52 and 53) should be patentable over the cited art.

Interview Request

If the claims are not found by the Examiner to be allowable, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney to set up an interview to discuss this application.
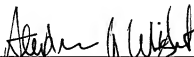
Conclusion

The claims in their present form should be allowable. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

KLARQUIST SPARKMAN, LLP

One World Trade Center, Suite 1600
121 S.W. Salmon Street
Portland, Oregon 97204   By   _____
Telephone: (503) 595-5300   Stephen A. Wight
Facsimile: (503) 595-5301   Registration No. 37,759